

United States Bankruptcy Court  
For the District of Rhode Island

**Minutes of June 14, 2001 Meeting of the Attorney Advisory Committee**

The fifth meeting of the Bankruptcy Court's Attorney Advisory Committee was held at the Clerk's office on Thursday, June 14, 2001 at 3:30pm.

Attendance: The following members were in attendance:

Lisa Geremia  
Patricia Antonelli  
Mark Buckley  
Bob Huseby  
Tom Quinn  
Charles Pisaturo

Court Personnel:  
Susan Thurston  
Michelle Torres

Absent: David Reilly, Christopher Lefebvre, John Rao, Sheryl Serreze and Peter Furness (due to medical reasons).

Meeting Discussion:

The meeting was called to order by Susan Thurston, Clerk of Court. The first order of business was the introduction of the newest member to the Committee – Mr. Robert Huseby. Bob will fill William Hague's position on the Committee, as Mr. Hague is retiring. Following this, the minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Next, the Committee discussed the proposed Food for Thought seminars under consideration from the last meeting. Susan Thurston updated the group on the dates selected by the RI Bar Association: October 2, November 6, December 4 and January 8. In order to enable the Bar Association to publish the flyers, a final decision on the topics and speakers was required. After some discussion, the Committee selected the following topics and speakers for the following dates:

- October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2001 -- Susan Thurston and Tom Quinn will address Pre-trial Procedures in Adversary Proceedings;
- November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2001 -- Patricia Antonelli and Lisa Geremia will cover Motions for Relief from the Automatic Stay;
- December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2001 -- Christopher Lefebvre and Charlie Pisatoro will discuss Reaffirmation Agreements; and
- January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2002, Christopher Lefebvre and John Rao will speak on dischargeability complaints and procedures.

Next, the Committee was updated on the production cycle for the Local Rule book. In order to incorporate recent changes which take place on December 1 of each year (coinciding with the annual effective date for amendments to the Federal Bankruptcy Rules), the local rules book will now be published in January of each year (as opposed to June). Susan then reported on pending local rule revisions. These will include amendments to the Chapter 13 plan and confirmation process, service of motions, LBR 1005-1, 1009-1, Appendix IV, appeal rules in the 8000's, IRS Setoff and Student representation of clients in bankruptcy. These amendments should be ready for notice and comment in the fall.

The next item on the agenda was an updated status on the implementation of the court's next case management system: CM/ECF. Susan invited committee members to join one of two subcommittees being formed to address attorney training on CM/ECF and local rule changes as a result of electronic filing of papers.

The Committee was then updated on the status of the Court and US Trustee's efforts to develop a bankruptcy clinic with Roger Williams University Law School. Susan shared a copy of the initial proposal package that she and Sheryl Serreze submitted to RWULS. Recently a meeting with two of the faculty who run the other clinical programs at RWULS was held at the Court and attended by Susan and Sheryl. The University is very interested about the concept and will be working primarily with Ms. Serreze during the next several months to refine the requirements and start to get the program developed. Part of the clinical program contemplates the assistance of practicing attorneys to supervise clinical law students. Susan discussed the benefits to the Bar in participating in such a program and encouraged any interested attorneys to contact Sheryl.

Finally, Michelle Torres demonstrated to the Committee the new email mailing service recently added to the Court's website. Attorneys who subscribe to the email mailing service will receive updates on upcoming changes and announcements from the Court, and also recent court opinions. Susan also encouraged the Committee to complete the customer service survey, which recognizes specific court employees for outstanding service to the public.

The next Attorney Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled **for September 13, 2001 at 3:30 pm.** at the Clerk's office..

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.